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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,387	03/28/2001	Paul W. Bennett	5676-00500	7156

7590

02/09/2005

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EXAMINER

BURGE, LONDRA C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/820,387

**Applicant(s)**

BENNETT, PAUL W.

**Examiner**

Londra C Burge

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 9/3/2004.
2. In the amendment, Claims 1-36 have been cancelled and claims 37-63 are newly added claims.
3. The rejections of claims 1-36 have been withdrawn because of cancellation of claims.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claims 37-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Excel 2000 (pp. 1-11: Copyright 1985-1999).**

**In regard to independent claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses displaying a column on a display screen, wherein the column comprises a first set of data in a first sub-column and a second set of data in a second sub-column, wherein the first sub-column comprises a first set of fields displayed vertically, wherein the second sub-column comprises a second set of fields displayed vertically (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a first and second sub-column within a column where the fields are displayed vertically), wherein the column comprises a column label substantially spanning at least a combined width of the first sub-column and the second sub-column (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a column label spanning the width of the first and second sub-

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columns), and wherein the displaying the column on the display screen comprises displaying the first sub-column on a left side of the second sub-column (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a first sub-column displayed to the left of a second sub-column); receiving user input to change a display order of the first sub-column and the second sub-column; and redisplaying the column on the display screen in response to the receiving the user input to change the display order of the first sub-column and the second sub-column (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows characters that the user inputs into the columns and Page 10 Figure 10 shows where the first and second sub columns are reverses), wherein the redisplaying the column on the display screen comprises changing the display order by displaying the first sub-column on a right side of the second sub-column. (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. it is know that the columns can be in different orders)

**In regard to dependent claim 38, which depends on claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses wherein the column label is displayed atop the column. (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 Line 5 i.e. shows columns that are labeled with Number and Operation)

**In regard to dependent claim 39, which depends on claim 38,** Microsoft Excel discloses wherein a first field label is displayed atop the first sub-column and below the column label, wherein a second field label is displayed atop the second sub-column and below the column label (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 Lines 4 and 5 show first and second sub-columns that are labeled with Number and Operation and the labels are below the label of the main column), and wherein the second field label is displayed alongside the first field label. (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 Line 5 i.e. shows columns that are labeled with Number and Operation which are beside each other)

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**In regard to dependent claim 40, which depends on claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses *wherein the first set of data or the second set of data comprises one or more mathematical operators*. (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows columns that contain mathematical operators)

**In regard to dependent claim 41, which depends on claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses *wherein the first set of data or the second set of data comprises one or more numeric values*. (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows columns that contain numeric values)

**In regard to dependent claim 42, which depends on claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses *wherein the first set of data or the second set of data comprises one or more numeric values*. (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows columns that contain comment strings)

**In regard to dependent claim 43, which depends on claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses *wherein the column comprises a third set of data in a third sub-column, wherein the third sub-column comprises a third set of fields displayed vertically* (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a first and second sub-column and it is understood the a third column can be added); *and wherein the column label spans at least a combined width of the first sub-column, the second sub-column, and the third sub-column*. (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a column label the spans the width of the first and second sub-columns and it is understood that it can extend over a third sub-column)

**In regard to dependent claim 44, which depends on claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses *displaying an additional column on the display screen, wherein the additional column comprises a fourth set of data in a fourth sub-column and a fifth set of data in a*

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*fifth sub-column, wherein the fourth sub-column comprises a fourth set of fields displayed vertically, wherein the fifth sub-column comprises a fifth set of fields displayed vertically (MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a first and second sub-column and it is understood the a third, fourth and fifth column can be added and be displayed vertically), wherein the additional column comprises an additional column label substantially spanning a combined width of the fourth sub-column and the fifth sub- column. (MS Excel Page 5 Figure 5 i.e. shows a label that spans the width of several columns)*

**In regard to dependent claim 45, which depends on claim 37,** Microsoft Excel discloses *wherein the first set of data and the second set of data comprise one or more mathematical operators and one or more numeric values (MS Excel Page 3 Figure 3 i.e. shows mathematical and numeric values in columns); and wherein the method further comprises: automatically calculating a result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values; and displaying the result on the display screen. (MS Excel Page 3 Figure 3 Line 8 i.e. shows the calculation the numeric values in Lines 3-7)*

**In regard to independent claims 46 and 55,** claims 46 and 55 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 37 and are rejected along the same rationale

**In regard to dependent claims 47 and 56, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 47 and 56 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 38 and are rejected along the same rationale

**In regard to dependent claims 48 and 57, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 48 and 57 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 39 and are rejected along the same rationale

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**In regard to dependent claims 49 and 58, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 49 and 58 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 40 and are rejected along the same rationale

**In regard to dependent claims 50 and 59, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 50 and 59 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 41 and are rejected along the same rationale

**In regard to dependent claims 51 and 60, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 51 and 60 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 42 and are rejected along the same rationale

**In regard to dependent claims 52 and 61, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 52 and 61 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 43 and are rejected along the same rationale

**In regard to dependent claims 53 and 62, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 53 and 62 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 44 and are rejected along the same rationale

**In regard to dependent claims 54 and 63, which depend on claims 46 and 55,** claims 54 and 63 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 45 and are rejected along the same rationale

***Response to Arguments***

6. **Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 37-63 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.**

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The applicant argues that there is no teaching of a single column comprising two side-by-side sub-columns (Page 9 Lines 25-26). However MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a first and second sub-column within a column.

The applicant argues that there is no teaching of a single column label (Page 10 Line 1). However MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 shows columns with a single label.

The applicant argues that there is no teaching changing the display of the columns to display the first column to the right of the second column (Page 10 Lines 4-8). However in MS Excel Figures 7 and 10 it is known that the columns can be in different orders.

The applicant argues that there is no teaching of two sub-column labels below a column label (Page 10 Lines 12-15). However, MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 Lines 4 and 5 show first and second sub-columns that are labeled with Number and Operation and the labels are below the label of the main column.

The applicant argues that there is no teaching of a third column that can be added and a label spanning the width of three columns (Page 10 Lines 20-23). However MS Excel Page 7 Figure 7 i.e. shows a first and second sub-column and it is understood that a third column can be added and MS Excel Page 5 Figure 5 i.e. shows a label that spans the width of several columns.

### ***Conclusion***

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).



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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Londra C Burge whose telephone number is (571) 272-4122. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

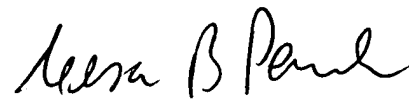
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Londra C Burge

1/26/05

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cesar B Paula".

CESAR B PAULA

PRIMARY EXAMINER

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